

07/26/99



EXPRESS MAIL LABEL: EL229774413US
DOCKET NO.: D0968-00024

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Peter J. Cronk

For: Portable Computing Device With Leather Grain Top



CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope as "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 CFR § 1.10, Mailing Label Number EL229774413US addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

July 26, 1999
Date


By PETER J. CRONK, REG. NO. 32,021

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Transmitted herewith for filing, please find the following:

Type of Application:

- ☒ [X] Utility (non-provisional)
- ☐ [] Divisional
- ☐ [] Continuation
- ☒ [x] Continuation-In-Part (CIP)

Incorporation by Reference:

- ☐ The entire disclosure of the prior application, **from which a copy of the Oath or Declaration is supplied**, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference herein (37 CFR § 1.63(d))

Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed (37 CFR § 1.78):

- ☐ **PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION UNDER THE CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS SECTION:**

- ☐ This application claims the benefit of **U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s)**. 60/_____, filed on _____.
- ☐ This application is a ☐ **continuation** ☐ **continuation-in-part** ☐ **divisional** of copending **U.S. Application Serial No(s)**. _____, filed on _____.
- ☐ **International Application No.** _____ filed on _____ and which designated the U.S.

Benefit of Prior Foreign Application(s):

- ☐ Priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of Application No. _____ filed on _____ in _____ [COUNTRY].
- ☐ A Certified Copy of each of the following application(s) for which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE

- ☐ is enclosed.
- ☐ has been filed in prior Application Serial No. 0/_____, which was filed on _____.

Application Elements Enclosed:

- ☒ 4 Pages of Specification
- ☒ 2 Pages of Claims
- ☐ 2 Sheets of Drawings
- ☐ Formal
- ☒ Informal
- ☐ Petition to Accept Photographs (37 CFR § 1.84(b)).
- ☒ 1 Page(s) of Abstract of the Disclosure

Accompanying Application Parts:

- ☐ Associate Power of Attorney
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☒ Form PTO 1449 (PTO/SB/08A, 08B)
- ☒ Copies of Cited References
- ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (37 CFR §§ 1.821-1.825).
- ☐ Microfiche (Appendix) (37 CFR § 1.96(c)).
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (itemized)

Declaration or Oath and Power of Attorney:

- ☒ New (executed original or copy).
- ☐ New (unexecuted).
- ☐ Copy from prior application (37 CFR § 1.63(d))

Deletion of Inventor(s) (37 CFR § 1.63(d)(2), 1.33(b)):

- ☐ Signed Statement deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application is attached.

Assignment:

☐ An executed Assignment of the invention to:

Small Entity Statements:

☒ Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 §§ CFR 1.9 and 1.27 attached.

☒ Status as a small entity was claimed in prior U.S. Application Serial No. 29/099,171 filed on January 14, 1999. **Status is still proper and desirable.**

☒ A copy of the statement in prior application is enclosed.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

	<u>SMALL ENTITY</u>				<u>OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY</u>	
	<u>NO. FILED</u>	<u>NO. EXTRA</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>RATE</u> <u>FEE</u>
BASIC FEE				\$380	<u>OR</u>	\$760
TOTAL CLAIMS	<u>10</u> - 20 = <u>0</u>		x 9 =	\$	<u>OR</u>	x 18 = \$
INDEP. CLAIMS	<u>2</u> - 3 = <u>0</u>		x 39 =	\$	<u>OR</u>	x 78 = \$
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S)			+130 =	\$	<u>OR</u>	+260 = \$
TOTAL				\$380	<u>OR</u>	\$

Method of Payment of Fees:

☐ No filing fee is to be paid at this time.

☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 04-1679 in the amount of \$_____. This transmittal is attached in duplicate.

☒ A check in the amount of \$ 380.00 is attached. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees:

NOTE: if no fees are to be paid on filing, the following items should NOT be completed.

☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the following fees and to refund any overpayment associated with this communication or during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 04-1679. **This sheet is provided in duplicate.**

☒ Filing fees (37 CFR § 1.16(a), (f) or (g)).

☒ Presentation of extra claims (37 CFR § 1.16(b), (c) and (d)).


☒ Surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration later than the filing date of the application (37 CFR § 1.16(e)).

☒ 37 CFR §§ 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (Extension fees pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a)).

☒ Application processing fees (37 CFR § 1.17).

☐ 37 CFR § 1.18 (Issue Fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b)).

Date: July 26, 1999


Peter J. Cronk
Registration No. 32,021

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OUR FILE
D0968-00019

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Peter J. Cronk

Serial No: N/A

Examiner: N/A

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit: N/A

For: PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICE HAVING A LEATHER GRAIN TOP

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EL229773506US

Date of Deposit: 1-14-99

I hereby certify that this paper of fee is being deposited
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and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231

Peter J. Cronk, Registration No. 32,021



Signature

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) AND 37 C.F.R. §1.27(b)
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Dear Sir:

As the below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c), for purposes of paying reduced fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §41(a) and §41(b), to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, with regard to the invention, entitled: PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICE HAVING A LEATHER GRAIN TOP, described in:

[XX] the specification filed herewith

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OUR FILE
D0968-00019

[] Serial No. _____, filed _____
[] Patent No. _____, issued _____

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law, to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the above-identified invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c), if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which could not qualify as a small business concern pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d), or a non-profit organization pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention, is listed below.

[XX] no such person, concern, or organization
[] person, concern, or organization listed below

Name _____
Address _____

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the Issue Fee or any Maintenance Fee due after the date on which status as a Small Entity is no longer appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.28(b).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Name of Inventor Peter J. Cronk
Address of Inventor 919 McElwee Road
Moorestown, New Jersey 08057

Dated: 1-14-99

Respectfully submitted,


Peter J. Cronk
Registration No. 32,021

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: D0968-00024

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PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICE WITH LEATHER GRAIN TOP

Related Application Data

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Design Patent Application Serial No. 29/099,171, filed on January 14, 1999, which in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S.

- 5 Design Patent Application Serial No. 29/066,939, filed on February 19, 1997, now U.S. Design Patent No. D407,386, issued on March 30, 1999, which applications and patent are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Background of the Invention

- Portable personal computer shipments were expected to rise to about 18 million
10 units in 1998. Recent market research has indicated that as the price of portable computing falls, and more and more competitors provide like features, it is getting harder and harder for manufacturers to differentiate their products in the marketplace. Most portable computing devices use a beige or charcoal colored housings. Such colors provide little or no market distinction, which has forced manufacturers to look to translucent bright colors, such as Apple
15 Computer, Inc.'s iMac TM and iBook TM, or metallic finishes, such as Packard Bell's Z1 TM. Such computers have been well received, but they are not very appropriate for business use.

Accordingly, there is a need for a portable computing device having an attractive or unique appearance for distinguishing itself in the marketplace, and providing the look and feel of leather.

20

Summary of the Invention

Portable computing devices are provided by this invention which include a housing having top and bottom portions connected by a hinge. The top and bottom housing portions include an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface and a peripheral edge. A set of keys are disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the bottom portion of the housing,

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and a display screen is disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the top portion of the housing. The portable computing devices, include the improvement of a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of at least the top portion of the housing.

The use of synthetic or natural leather on portable computing devices adds a
5 luxurious and expensive looking aesthetic appearance to such devices. The leather grain layer can be disposed on a major portion of the outwardly facing surface of the top portion to provide an eye catching, upscale appearance that is perfect for the business environment. The high friction surface and texture of the leather is also easier for fingers to grip and hold.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 The accompanying drawings illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention as well as other information pertinent to the disclosure, in which:

FIG. 1: is a front perspective view of a portable notebook computing device having a leather grain layer;

FIG. 2: is the portable notebook computing device of FIG. 1 in an open
15 condition;

FIG. 3: is a hand-held portable computing device also having a leather grain top layer; and

FIG. 4: is the hand-held computing device of FIG. 3 in an open condition.

Detailed Description of the Invention

20 With respect to the drawings, and in particular, to the notebook computer 100 shown FIGS. 1 and 2, a description of one preferred embodiment of this invention follows. The notebook computer 100 is of a typical design, including a housing having a top portion 17 and a bottom portion 19 connected by hinge 20. Hinge 20 has at least one hinge element, but is illustrated in FIG.1 as having two of such elements. The top and bottom portions, also called
25 shells because of the shallow cavities they contain, have inwardly facing surfaces and outwardly facing surfaces, and a peripheral edge. A set of keys 18 is disposed on the inwardly facing

surface of the bottom housing portion 19 and a display screen 16 is disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the top housing portion 17. In an important aspect of this invention, a leather grain layer 10 is disposed on the exterior facing surface of the top portion of the housing 17. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, a pair of lateral edges 12 and 14 are provided which can be
 5 non-ornamental or smooth in appearance. This is optional, since the top can contain a partial or a full leather grain, and the shell can be provided in a variety of shapes and sizes, with curved or square edges and/or corners.

It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the leather grain layer 10 of this invention can be a natural leather or a synthetic leather material, such as embossed vinyl.
 10 The leather grain ideally exhibits a random grain pattern such as that exhibited by natural leather. It is envisioned that one of ordinary skill in the art will be able to use leather and leather-like materials of known sources, with the ability to bind these materials to the upper housing portion 117 in a conventional manner, such as by adhesive, heat sealing or ultrasonic welding, for example.

15 The portable computing device of this invention may be embodied by a hand-held or "palmtop" computing device 200 as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. Such devices are known to have a great deal of computing power, but generally have a smaller keyboard 118 and display screen 116 located in the lower housing portion 119 and upper housing portion 117, respectively. Hand-held devices also may include, for example, a series of apertures 122 in the housing for a
 20 speaker or microphone, for example.

As with the previous notebook embodiment 100, the hand-held computing device 200 can include a pair of optional smooth lateral edges 112 and 114. Such lateral edges can be helpful in protecting the edge of the leather grain layer from being damaged or delaminated due to heavy use or contact with hard surfaces.

25 From the foregoing, it can be realized that this invention provides portable computing devices having a leather grain top for providing a distinctive appearance, better tactile feel and gripping capability, a more luxurious feel and better marketing distinction. Although various embodiments have been illustrated, this was for the purpose of describing, but not

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limiting the invention. Various modifications which will become apparent to one skilled in the art, are within the scope of this invention described in the attached claims.

[illegible]

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What is claimed:

1. A portable computing device comprising:
a housing having top and bottom portions connected by a hinge, said top
and bottom housing portions having an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface and
5 a peripheral edge;
a set of keys disposed on an inwardly facing surface of said bottom
portion;
a display screen disposed on an inwardly facing surface of said top
portion; and
10 a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of said top
portion.
2. The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein said leather grain layer
is disposed on a major portion of said outwardly facing surface of said top portion of said
housing.
- 15 3. The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein said leather grain layer
comprises a random grain pattern.
4. The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein said outwardly facing
surface of said top portion of said housing comprises at least one edge portion bordering said
leather grain layer, said edge portion having a surface area less than the surface area of said
20 leather grain layer.
5. The portable computing device of claim 4, wherein said edge portion is
smoother in texture than said leather grain layer.

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6. The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein said leather grain layer is located at least on a substantial portion of said outwardly facing surface of said top portion of said housing.

7. The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein said leather grain layer
5 comprises natural or synthetic leather.

8. A portable computing device comprising:
a housing having top and bottom shell portions hingedly connected along a lateral edge of said shell portions, each of said shell portions having an outwardly facing surface and an inwardly facing surface, said inwardly facing surfaces facing one another when said top and
10 bottom shell portions are swiveled along said hinge into a closed position;
a set of keys located on said inwardly facing surface of said bottom shell portion;
a display screen located on said inwardly facing surface of said top shell portion;
and
a leather grain layer disposed on said outwardly facing surface of said top shell
15 portion.

9. The portable computing device of claim 8 wherein said leather grain layer comprises natural leather.

10. The portable computing device of claim 8 wherein said top shell portion comprises a pair of lateral edge portions bordering said leather grain layer, said lateral edge
20 portions not exhibiting a leather grain.

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Abstract

Portable computing devices, such as notebook and palm top computers are provided which include top and bottom housing portions connected by a hinge in which a set of keys is disposed in the bottom portion and a display screen is disposed in the upper portion.

- 5 These devices further include a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing side of the top portion.

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PH3\566233.1

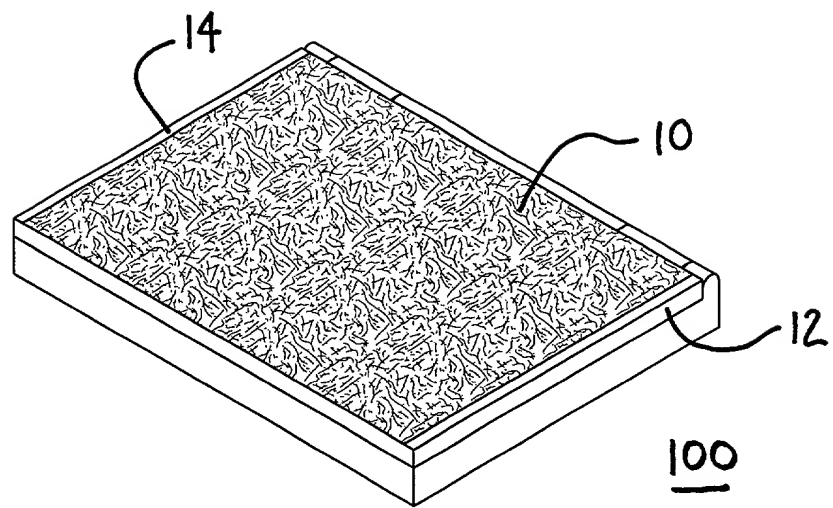


FIG. 1

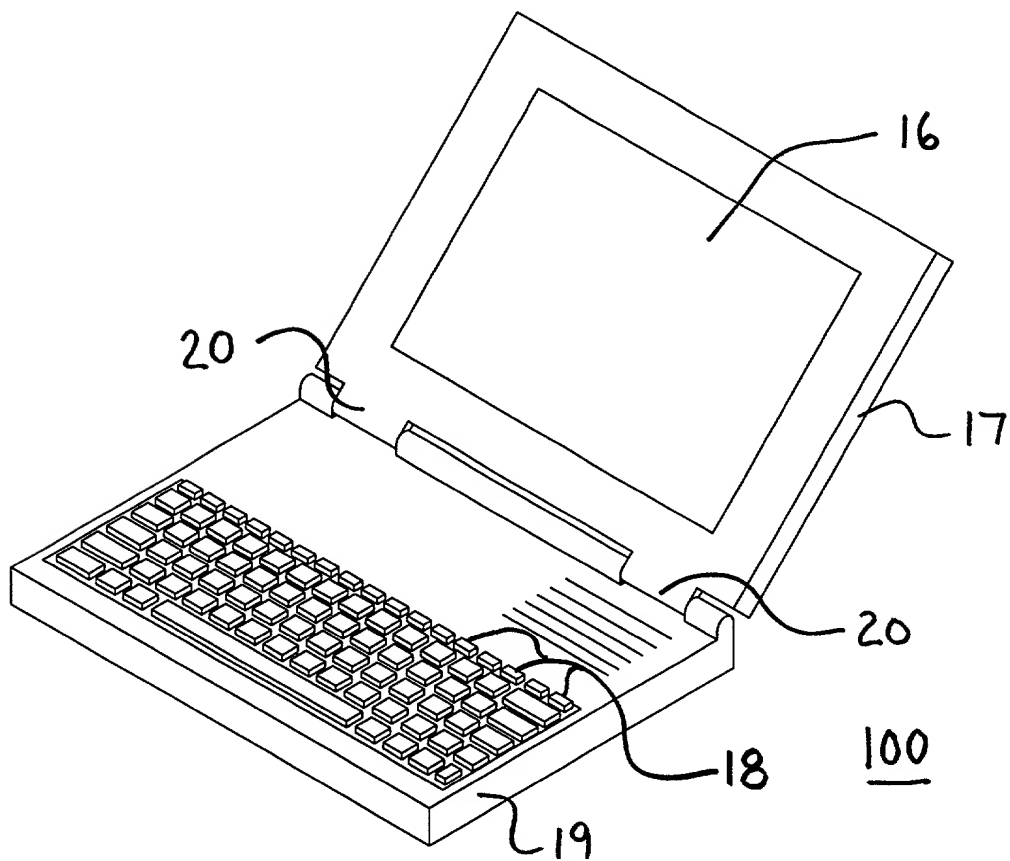


FIG. 2

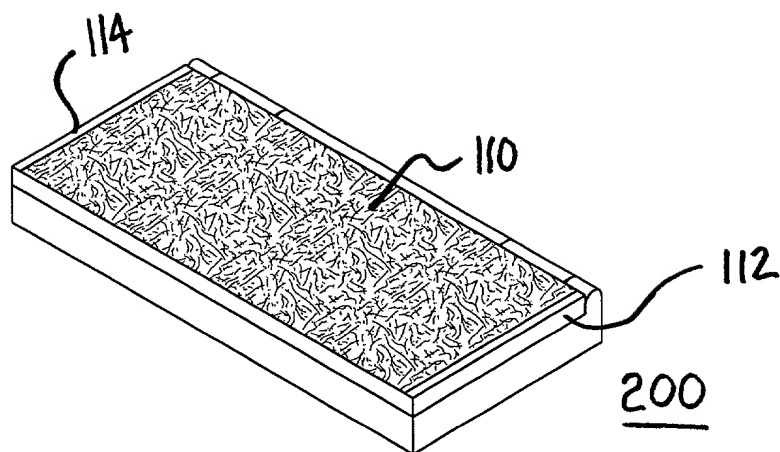


FIG. 3

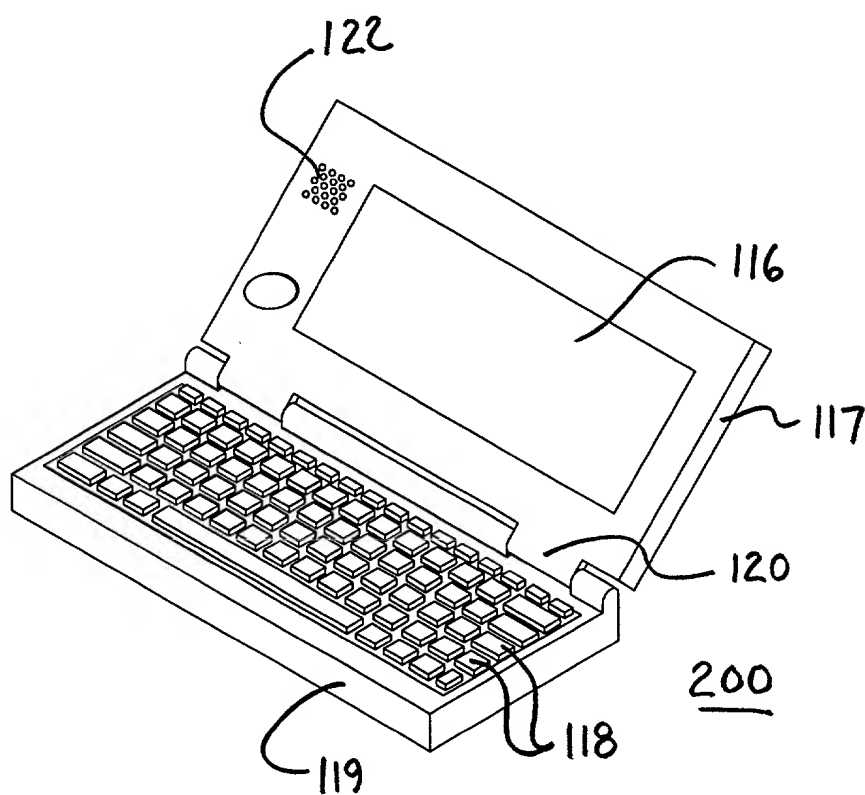


FIG. 4

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;
and

I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **Portable Computing Device With Leather Grain Top** the specification of which:

☒ [XX] is attached hereto.

☐ [] was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____. (If applicable.)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any Amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of any application on which priority is claimed:

Country	Number	Date Filed	Priority Claimed ?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filed	Patented or Pending ?
<u>29/099,171</u>	<u>1/14/99</u>	<u>pending</u>
<u>29/066,939</u>	<u>2/19/97</u>	<u>patented</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, of the law firm **DUANE, MORRIS & HECKSCHER**, One Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith,


Attorney Name(s):	Peter J. Cronk	Reg. No.	32,021
	William H. Murray		27,218
	Robert E. Rosenthal		33,450
	N. Stephen Kinsella		37,657
	Steven E. Koffs		37,163
	Darius C. Gambino		41,472
	Lewis F. Gould, Jr.		25,057
	Stephan P. Gribok		29,643
	Samuel W. Apicelli		36,427
	Daniel S. Goldberg		39,689
	Anthony Colesanti		42,428
	Richard A. Paikoff		34,892
	Gail Dalickas		40,979

and

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: D0968-00019

Peter J. Cronk
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1	Full Name Peter J. Cronk	Inventor's Signature 	Date 7/23/99
	Residence 919 McElwee Road, Moorestown, New Jersey, 08057		
	Citizenship: USA Post Office Address 919 McElwee Road, Moorestown, New Jersey, 08057		
2	Full Name	Inventor's Signature	Date
	Residence		
	Citizenship: USA Post Office Address		
3	Full Name	Inventor's Signature	Date
	Residence		
	Citizenship: Post Office Address		
4	Full Name	Inventor's Signature	Date
	Residence		
	Citizenship: Post Office Address		